

Benjamin Sippel, Temples in Decline? The Egyptian Priesthood under Roman Rule.

Mario Capasso, Paola Davoli & Natascia Pellé (edd.), Proceedings of the 29th International Congress of Papyrology. Lecce, 28 July - 3 August 2019 = Quaderni dell'Istituto superiore universitario di formazione interdisciplinare. 2 (Lecce, 2022) II, pp. 905-914.

http://siba-ese.unisalento.it/index.php/29th_ICP/issue/view/1881

Argues against the narrative that the Egyptian priesthood "suffered" under Roman rule and, in consequence, "declined markedly" in the 3rd century A.D. In contrast, points out that Romans were keen to protect priestly privileges, and that the economic condition of temples is difficult to reconstruct. A closer look at the body of evidence further shows that a general "decline" of the Egyptian priesthood under Roman rule cannot be stated, as our material is primarily limited to just few temples at the edges of the Fayyum.

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